

## New York Tribune.

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## "Safety First" for Mr. Bensel in the Graft Inquiry.

State Engineer Bensel is an ardent convert to the "safety first" campaign. Under the rulings of the courts he had a right, of course, to refuse to testify before the special grand jury regarding his official acts without an immunity bath. So had poor Waldo a right to refuse to sign a waiver of immunity when his testimony regarding police conditions was desired by the Curran aldermanic committee. So had Kennedy, but his apprehension of the investigation Mr. Whitman is conducting was so great that he preferred death by his own hand. Mr. Bensel's exercise of the right amounts to a plea that his testimony would degrade or incriminate him. The public verdict on his conduct must be that he was afraid to stand the probe without a guarantee of safety.

"The silent sow gets the swill," the explanation given by Mr. Bensel's lawyer, is appropriate enough in application to the whole graft plasty, but it is not entirely an adequate and convincing excuse for Mr. Bensel's conduct. The contrast between his present padlocked lips and his previous loquaciousness—so far as he has even carried the customary frankness regarding public affairs through official reports and statements to the point of keeping a press agent—is too striking and significant. The political hogs at the public trough have found much swill. The grafting has been good; plunder plentiful. If Mr. Bensel knows anything which would help to expose the grafters and stop the thievery it is his duty under his oath of office to tell about it. His refusal to perform this manifest duty can be interpreted in only one way.

Fortunately his refusal cannot permanently block the graft probe. Mr. Whitman has more than one approach to the grafters. There is about to be another investigation by the Assembly committee which may be expected to unearth more graft and fresh leads to the looters. Each day's developments emphasize the need for the broadest, deepest, most unsparring inquiry into the shocking state of affairs which has driven one official to suicide and another to open admission that his testimony might land him in jail. Public welfare demands that the rotten state departments be cleaned and the corruptionists put behind the bars. Nothing less will meet the situation's needs, and the public will have nothing less.

### The Right Precedent.

Why need the authorities in Washington look further for a precedent to follow in the case of the murderous bandit Castillo, now under arrest in New Mexico, than to our northern border? The best precedent in the world was that set by Canada in the case of Thaw. Castillo, who wrecked the Cumbre tunnel and caused the death of several Americans, is a decidedly undesirable immigrant.

There should be no hesitation about what government in Mexico to recognize. Justice should not be defeated while this country puzzles over whether Villa is a proper man to receive the prisoner or not, and the scandal of interminable legal actions for the benefit of this robber and cutthroat should be avoided. He should be bundled swiftly across the border.

What will happen once he is back on the other side of the Rio Grande will be sure to be justice, which is more than Canada could count on when she hustled the bewildered Thaw out of her territory.

### False Argument Against the Police Reforms.

Mr. Jerome, opposing Mayor Mitchell's police reform bills in a letter to the chairman of the Senate Civil Service Committee, draws an affecting picture of the hardships they would produce for the force. Men who had entered the service expecting to give their lives to it and by faithful performance of their duties had antagonized powerful people, even politicians, would have no fundamental safeguard against improper removal if the court review of police trials were abolished, Mr. Jerome insists. He finds it incredible that any Police Commissioner would confess himself unable to handle his force "without unrestrained power to do injustice to his subordinates."

All this would be important as well as affecting—if it were true. But it isn't. Mr. Jerome's rhetoric is better than his reasoning. No "injustice" would be done to any subordinate by an intelligent and honest Police Commissioner; if injustices occurred they would be attributable directly to the chief executive of the force, and it would be much easier to change him than to get rid of a corrupt inspector entrenched behind legal technicalities. On the other hand, nobody knows better than Mr. Jerome that the present condition he defends is no bar to persecution of an honest policeman by a politician, nobody a member of the police system or a civilian. Nobody knows better than Mr. Jerome, too, how the law's technicalities prevent the doing of justice, for it was he who once promised to follow the trail of crookedness inside the doors of the Metropolitan if necessary. He didn't, and he would be no friend of anybody who said it was anything but the impossibility of surmounting the technical obstacles that prevented him.

"I want to break the police system," declared Mayor Mitchell at the meeting of the Charity Organization Society. "I want to give every patrolman the chance to be an honest man if he wants to be." It cannot be broken while the courts can reinstate policemen whom the Commissioner has dismissed from the force.

It is hard to see how an honest, hard-working policeman could suffer without this privilege of a

trial on charges with the right to a court review. He hopes never to be up for trial, and is doing his best to avoid such a possibility. The men who are shaping the opposition to these bills are those who fear them in operation. The city has little use for such servants, and the Legislature, if it heeds the city's wishes, will give little weight to objections to reform born of fear.

### A Whiff from Between Worlds.

A whiff of wood smoke gave Mr. Kipling his start before the Royal Geographers. He chose to conjure with a sense which polite civilized folk ignore when they can, but which is tied up with the most vivid memories in all of us, none the less. From the smell of dried fish, which is Burma, and the smell of the camel, which is Arabia, he came to wood smoke.

A whiff of it can take us back to forgotten marches over unnamed mountains with disreputable companions; to day-long halts beside flooded rivers in the rain; to wonderful mornings of youth in brilliantly lighted lands, where everything was possible and generally done; to uneasy wakings under a low desert moon and on top of cruel, hard pebbles; and, above all, to that God's own hour all the world over when the stars have gone out and it is too dark to see clear and one lies with the fumes of last night's embers in one's nostrils—lies and waits for a new horizon to heave itself up against a new dawn.

So flows the Kipling magic, a hint of that stirring of vague, primitive records in sophisticated brains which made the Jungle Books. And once this juggling with the centuries takes hold the sweep into the future comes easily enough. With the years rushing by like stars, and a 'tween worlds wind cutting cold, you presently arrive upon the lost parts of the world, our own New York in the heap. And as a corner or two whips by you are shown these letters in the sky:

The old mechanism is scrapped, and the moods and emotions that went with it have followed. Only the spirit of man carries on unaltered and unappeasable. A swift and adventurous life we lead upon a warm smelling and delectable planet. So runs the Kipling philosophy, which it is a pleasure to believe.

### The Boy Who Could Not Spell.

Are spellers born or made? And if they can be made, what is the best process of manufacture? We are glad to present as evidence upon these important topics the case of Edward Corps, a small Britisher whose teacher tried to teach him to spell the word "rough" in true Dostoevsky Hall fashion. The case came before the King's Bench Division in the form of a libel suit. A weekly publication criticized the teacher for his methods and the teacher sued for damages. Let it be said at once that he recovered a farthing's damage, pursuant to the true spirit of compromise which pervades British justice.

As for the facts, the teacher was dissatisfied with "ruff" as a spelling for "rough," and gave the boy two strokes of the cane on the hand to make the spelling clearer. This improved the spelling, but the boy still seemed uncertain, so another blow of the cane was administered. And as a final ingenious touch the boy was required to run around the playground a dozen of times (in a hot sun) spelling the word as he ran. Finally the boy's mother arrived in response to a summons and carried Master Edward Corps home, leaving behind her a remark that the teacher was not "fit to teach pigs."

The point of the trial seems to us not so much the interesting standards of British pedagogy as the fact that the victim of the occasion did not, after all, learn how to spell the word "rough." We quote from the report of the trial:

For the defence, the boy Corps was called. His head just appeared over the ledge of the witness box. Mr. Justice Darling—How do you spell "rough" now?  
The Boy—R-o-u-g-h. (Much laughter, in consequence of which the little witness began to sob loudly.)

Surely not a triumph for the methods used. Yet who shall say that any other system would have worked better? The case rather supports the notion that the boy who cannot spell is quite as frequent as the boy who will not.

### A Great Duty for the Graft Probers.

John Kirkland Clark, selected as counsel for the Assembly graft hunters, has been District Attorney Whitman's chief assistant in the John Doe investigation here. By taking him the committee assures the public that it will work in harmony with Mr. Whitman and gives evidence of its earnestness and honesty.

It is eminently desirable that Mr. Whitman's splendid work here should be supplemented by an inquiry with power to reach all upstate territory and with more impetus than Governor Glynn's investigation of the Highways Department. The highways weren't the only producers of graft in contracts and bribes and blackmail. Several other state departments need a bill of health in place of the contagion sign. The Assembly committee must probe them all—not for political effect and campaign material, but to expose the looters and help to restore clean conditions. Mr. Clark is a young man and ambitious; so is Mr. Sullivan, chairman of the committee. They have a great opportunity and a great duty.

### Precedent, or None, at Panama.

"In the United States," says Representative Doremus, in standing pat for tolls exemption for coastwise commerce at Panama, "we have never charged domestic commerce a toll for the use of any waterway improved at the expense of the government. To do so at Panama would be an innovation." The United States has never before constructed a waterway under an international treaty prescribing the terms and conditions of its operation and management. Its doing so at Panama is an innovation. Is it not logical to assume that new conditions justify new regulations?

### Germany as Frankenstein.

They are surely coming to grips in Germany over the relation between the army and the civil government. A representative of the Imperial ministry informs the Reichstag that it cannot legislate for the control of the army, to restrain it from exercising extreme war powers in time of peace. To forbid the repetition of such incidents as that at Zabern would require an amendment of the imperial constitution.

Yet the army is created and maintained by the Reichstag. Every increase of the army has been effected by Parliamentary enactment. Every year's supply of funds for military maintenance has to be voted by the representatives of the people.

That may be good doctrine in the eyes of some underlings of the War Lord who strive to be more imperial than the Emperor. But it is gravely to be doubted whether the German nation and its elected representatives will permanently and meekly submit to having the role of Frankenstein thus thrust upon them.

## The Conning Tower

### To the Help.

When Henry Ford increased the wages  
Of all his honest, helping hands,  
Employers cried, in several rages:  
"He's playing to the stands!"

When Scrooge won't raise the pay a dollar,  
But clings to every cent of kale,  
We curse at Capital and holler:  
"That guy should go to jail!"

Ours is no ferrous constitution;  
Dispraise would send us to the wall;  
Wherefore, for every contribution,  
We do not pay at all.

Doubtless there is nothing in the statutes that coerces any underground railroad, if the surface car "system" chances to be crippled, to make an increase in the number of underground trains or cars. Which, for all anybody knows, is why no undergr—

### SOPHISTICATION ABROAD

By EDNA FERBER.

On Board S. S. Hamburg, departing from Brooklyn.

This boat has a conning tower, too, but if you want me to write in it somebody will have to lash me to the mast. Not that many an author hasn't got me that way, y'understand me. We came to the dock in an income-taxicab, so called because it took most of my—

Hotel in Brielle, N. J. in Which Stevenson Wrote Burns.—Times headline.

How about the inn in which Bacon wrote Shakespeare?

### EIGHT TO FIVE IT DIDN'T WORK.

(From the Times.)

The Duchess of Marlborough has been trying the experiment of having some interesting persons at small select dinners parties.

An athletic young diplomat informs Hunch that this country can't afford to get mixed up in any embroilings with that guy Wurta.

### SIMPLY SUPERLATIVES.

Herr Most Leon Bakst  
Mollie Best Nancy Furst  
Edwin Forrest George Broadhurst

\*Elided, as in England.

"Bring," says the bld to the dinner of the Indiana Society, "bring your wife, your children, your sweetheart and your friends." And next to whom are you supposed to sit?

### Emily: By Our Own William Wordsworth.

I crossed a field, beyond a fence,  
And met a lonely child.  
All savage was her innocence  
And she was very mild.

No merit has she now, no might,  
To soothe the languid nose.  
Yet all that was, however bright,  
Shall never come to blows.

CLAYTON HAMILTON.

Continued from yesterday morning, when the comp-room didn't make it a rule to collaborate with us. Didn't, in a word, make it a rule.

### WHY NOT GIVE MRS. FORT AN ASSIST. THEN?

(From the Granville (N. C.) Enterprise.)

A double smile chases the features of Mr. Frank Fort, for on Monday morning he became the father of two fine little black-haired boys—twins.

O the snow—condone our sorrow—  
Here today—and here tomorrow.

### SUMMARY THOUGHTS OF WINTER WEATHER.

By BAR.

THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW.  
This timely typograph doth show  
The w-k. and beautiful snow.

### THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPE'S.

February 17—Miss Hilda to call upon my wife, and H. and I did go for a long walk through the town, albeit at the end of it I was surprised to note the distance we had gone. H. is home from being at Palm Beach, and told me of the great style that is affected by the Palm Beachers, one lady, she said, having changed her gowns ten times in a single day, and in the evenings at the dances it is common for the ladies to go to their rooms and change their gowns between dances. Which seemeth to me to be the wildest folly, but scarce enough to grow wroth over, forasmuch as there be many sensible women in the world, and if these ladies did give no thought to dress, haply they might never think soever. To my office and did my stint betimes, and thence to the playhouse and saw "Sari" and enjoyed it greatly. A large crowd there to see it, too, shewing that decent plays do please the publick too.

18—To my cozen Charles's, who is stopping indoors with a misery in his throat, poor wretch, and played at cassino with him and gayed thereat 14 and my luncheon too. To my office where was Henry Harison the tale-writer, but he in a hurry to leave. I can stay long now, Mr. Pepsy, saith he, to see your new desk; But, nay, saith I, an so be you wish to be at the playhouse when the curtain riseth, you will not tarry here to see my desk, so he went on. The town is filled with snow, and what is to be done with it all I do not know, nor doth any one other. The cars do not run upon Broad Way, but while I hold it an outrage, yet I am glad in secret, since I no longer hear the great brakes screaming their inefficiency to the world at six o'clock in the morning.

Speaking of the excellence of "Sari," the lyrics are particularly and unusually good. They are written far less prosily than those in most other entertainments of the sort, and with considerable skill in versification. They are so good that it makes one regret the scarcity of performers with a sense of articulation. It is difficult to distinguish more than a quarter of the sung words.

An adroit versifier is Adrian Ross, who wrote the lyrics for "The Girl on the Film," but Miss Connie Ediss and Mr. George Grossmith are the only ones in the show whose diction projects across the f-l.

Perhaps one of the difficulties with lyrics is that so many of the singers don't know or care what the words mean. If you doubt that, attend the rehearsal of a musical comedy some time. And another trouble is that the composer frequently is more desirous to have his music heard than to have the public know what the song is about. . . . But there we go again. Discussing matters we have no knowledge of.

Turning to themes we may animadvert with authority, it seems that E. A. Winter runs a summer garden in Jersey City.

F. P. A.

## BENSEL'S CHOICE—MORAL SUICIDE.



## THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

### THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Its Existence for Either Sex Challenged.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: B. K. Eisner, in your issue of the 17th inst., seems to insist that "it is woman's ethical and constitutional right to vote," and some I know call it a natural right. Now, in contradiction to this Senator Elihu Root says: "Suffrage is not a natural right, but simply a privilege granted by the state on certain conditions being complied with, and is simply a means of government," and the real question is "whether government by the suffrage of men and women will be better than by the suffrage of men alone."

As I look at it, this question is not one of tyranny of one sex over the other—a sort of male monopoly—but one of expediency. In New Jersey women could formerly vote. In 1897 the new constitution took away this voting power, and some doubted the constitutionality of the measure, holding that the people of the colonies possessed, under the common law of England, the franchise as a right attached to the freehold, and women as well as men were freeholders.

And so the question arose as to the meaning of the courts when they held that "immunity from discrimination is the right to exercise a political privilege in a property right," and, according to the Fourteenth Amendment of our Constitution, a citizen cannot be deprived of valuable property rights without "due process of law."

But we note that lately at Trenton, N. J., this discussion was set at rest by a decision of the Supreme Court that no woman is entitled to vote at the state election; also that the laws of New Jersey refusing to permit women to vote are constitutional.

Your correspondent says: "If there were only ten women who did want to vote the ten should have that privilege." Now, suffragists themselves say that only 8 per cent of the women of this country favor woman suffrage, and at a referendum in Boston in 1895 for granting woman municipal suffrage only 4 per cent of the women of the state took the trouble to go to the polls and vote. Also, in San Francisco, where women can vote, only 25 per cent of the women voted at the last election.

Surely one may well ask: Do our women folk really want the vote?

J. C. PUMPELLY.

New York, Feb. 17, 1914.

### A HINT FOR MR. FETHERSTON

Clean the River Streets First, Urges a Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: For the last twenty-five years I have watched them try to remove the snow from our streets, and hope before my death to see them try to do it right. When they tunnel a mountain they start from the ends, and work into toward the centre. The snow cleaners start from centre and work out. If they cleaned South and West streets, then a few cross streets, such as Chambers and Fulton, when snow trucks got to the river they could unload without delay.

Just as I am writing this I have noticed a truck loaded with snow stuck twenty minutes at James Slip and Water street.

WILLIAM O'BIERNE.

New York, Feb. 17, 1914.

### The Secretary of the Efficiency Society.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your issue of Saturday, February 14, 1914, in an article about Mr. H. F. J. Porter, you refer to him as secretary of the Efficiency Society. We would

appreciate very much a correction of this statement, as Mr. Porter resigned as secretary of the Efficiency Society in September, 1913.

EFFICIENCY SOCIETY, INC.  
R. W. Walker, Secretary Membership and Publicity.  
New York, Feb. 17, 1914.

### A SQUARE DEAL FOR RAILROADS

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We usually find The Tribune on the right scent, as in your editorial today: "Postponing the Square Deal Which is Due to the Railroads." When wages have greatly increased and material for equipment of our railroads costs much more than formerly, is it not reasonable that higher rates should prevail for the freight which our railroads handle?

Our great railroad corporations are not some monsters springing out of the woods to prey upon the people. Take the great Pennsylvania Railroad as an example. Its stockholders (that is, its owners) number some 35,000 persons, and almost one-half of these are women. The necessities and the comforts of life are thus by many secured from investments in this railroad. Many purchased the stocks of this company at over \$100 a share (or rather two \$50 shares), but today, if one must for any reason sell his interest if he can get only about \$12, a loss of almost 85 per cent on cost price.

And why is this? Because in large part that railroad cannot get a just return for services rendered the public. The Interstate Commerce Commission, instead of instant and wise action in favor of the railroad, postpones the matter another six months. In the depots of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company are seen posted on the walls printed arguments for granting higher rates to that corporation. Verily, must a railroad get down on its knees before the public and the powers that be and plead simply for justice?

JOHN K. JONES.

Metuchen, N. J., Feb. 17, 1914.

### IN SUPPORT OF "MILLCENT"

To That Temple Upon a Minaret Is Supplied a Diagram.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your correspondent "W. A. P." must be dense indeed not to understand the letter by "Millicent," for the quotations that he gives from her letter convey the clearest kind of meaning, and yet he says that what she says seems to him "mere words signifying nothing and illuminating nothing that is dark within me."

For example, he says he does not understand what she means by saying that the "antis" are satisfied with founding a temple of manners upon a minaret of morals. The meaning may hurt his vanity, but is so in line with true philosophy that it reminds me of Emerson's saying "that want of liberty strengthens law and decorum and stupefies conscience." "W. A. P.'s" conscience must be stupefied or he would catch the drift of "Millicent's" meaning.

He further says that he does not understand what she means by saying the cause should not be judged by manners or even by morals in a restricted sense, but by the larger standard of justice. This indicates that "W. A. P." "sees the trees but not the woods," so to speak. That is to say, he is an individualist and cannot understand the philosophic view which comprehends causes as well as results.

Speaking of morals, the "antis" as a rule have a very good idea that "the way to make a good citizen is to propel a child

with ignorant admonitions from the door of the home rather than to lag with an enlightened intelligence into the world." The invalid remoteness of genuine life of the old-fashioned home needs a little of the rough sagacity and humor of public affairs before it will be possible for women generally to be efficient mothers of children who are out of the swaddling clothes period. The "antis" seem to think that motherhood consists of taking care of children up to their tenth year only. Anybody can do that; suffrage will enable them to be better mothers after that period. WAF.

New York, Feb. 15, 1914.

### A TRUST WITHOUT PROFIT

So Member of Convicted Dealers' Band Declares.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read The Tribune for twenty years, and I am surprised that a paper of your standing should publish an editorial "Jail Terms for the High Cost of Living." I thought at least you would take the trouble to investigate and set out the true merits of the live poultry case before condemning us.

The District Attorney has never intimated that our old association was an undue profit. The books, which are now in his hands, and which if you would show that the gross profit of the association was only 4 1/2 per cent, and its net profit only 3 per cent, would show it left a net profit of about 1 per cent on the last years in which the association existed.

This certainly does not look as if we were making the sky the limit of our charges, and, as a matter of fact, the receipts of live poultry since the breaking up of the association have increased from 3,000 cars to almost 6,000 cars, and the average price is about three cents a pound higher. This certainly does not indicate that the association had anything to do with increasing prices. On the contrary, the only effect that the association had upon prices was to make a standard market and prevent wild fluctuations.

As convincing evidence that we had no monopoly of the business you can see by examining the sworn testimony of the different witnesses that while the association members were handling 90 per cent of the business when organized, after the matter of fact they were only handling about 55 per cent when the action for conspiracy was started against us. We certainly never intended to break up the law, and before the association was organized legal opinion was obtained from the District Attorney of Westchester County, and prior to that our methods of doing business had been submitted to the then District Attorney of New York City, and he assured us that it was perfectly legal.

Now, we certainly never wanted to violate any law, and all that would have been necessary for the District Attorney to have done was to say that, in his opinion, we were violating the law and the association would have been immediately broken up. It was not profitable to us, and we certainly did not lose money among the members, and our only reason for hanging together was to maintain a standard commission of 5 per cent.

Personally, my firm did not lose a cent of business and made a profit of \$1,000,000. The association more than \$12,000,000 of business and made a profit of \$1,000,000. Our books are open to prove the same at any time. If this is getting to be a money squeezed out of the consumer, it is a failure to say. Live poultry is sold to the people the bulk of whom are honest, irreproachable, and our association formed principally to protect our results.

E. V. DREW.

New York, Feb. 13, 1914.